

2011

Boise Fire Weather Operating Plan

Fire Weather Zones OR636 and OR637



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BOISE

WHATS NEW: This year we have decided to change both the format of the RFW which was shown at the front of PNW AOP, but along with the way the internet briefing will be presented. The office Meteorologist-in-Charge will be changing from John Jannuzzi to Robert Diaz on June 1st. The format of the Fire Weather Watch and Red Flag Warning (RFW) will be changed from text format to a bulleted format as is shown in the front of this AOP.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Pre-fire season one a day routine afternoon product issuance will begin Monday, April 25th. Fire Weather Zone Forecast will be issued Monday through Friday by 1530 MDT / 1430 PDT.

Starting dates for the full compliment of fire weather products (including NFDRS forecasts and twice-daily zone forecasts) will depend on variables such as fuel dryness and customer needs.

Staff meteorologists are available any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The fire weather desk is staffed from 830 am to 430 pm.

STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION –

Boise Weather Forecast Office

NIFC – National Weather Service
3833 S. Development Ave., Bldg 3807
Boise, ID 83705-5354

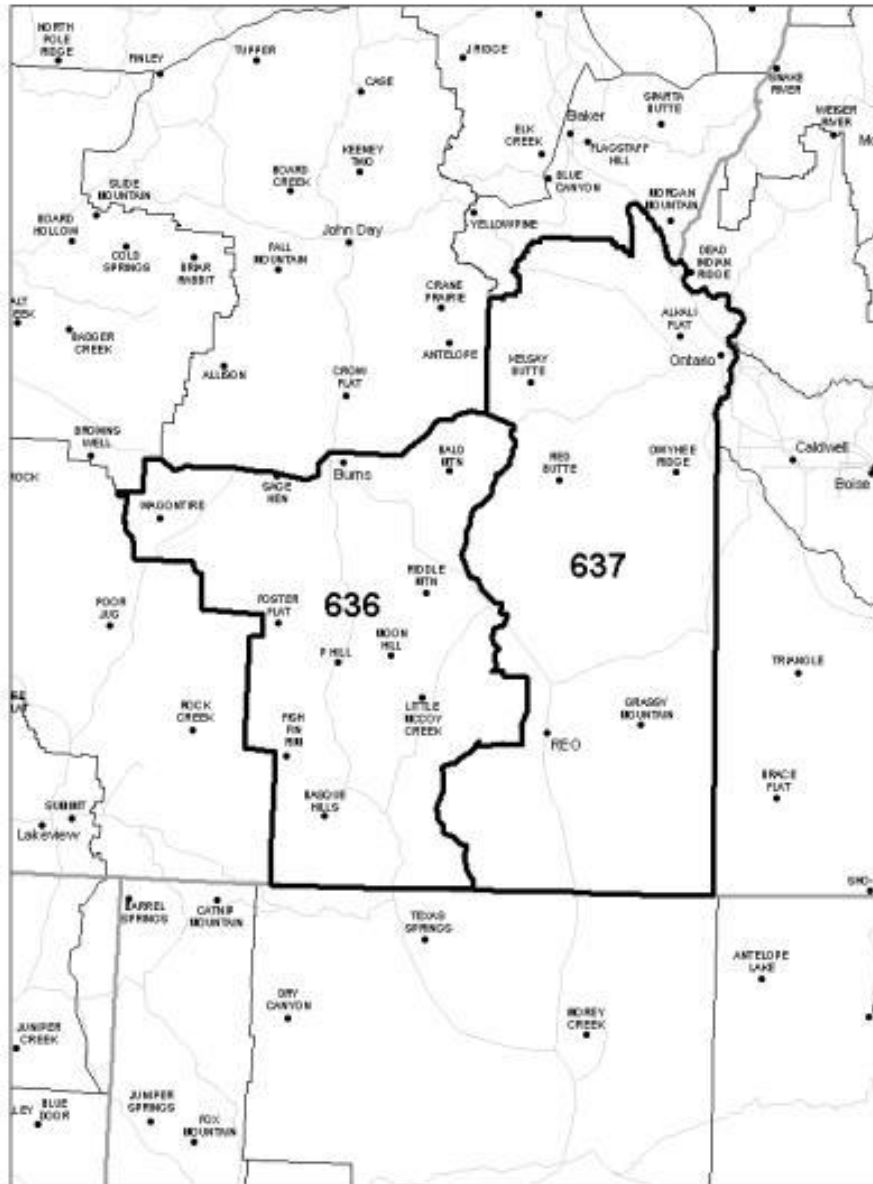
Phone: (208) 334-9060 / Fax (208) 334-1662/1660

Web Site Address: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/firewx/?wfo=boi>

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>E-Mail</u> |
|---------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Chuck Redman | Program Leader/IMET | Chuck.Redman@noaa.gov |
| Coleen Decker | Assistant Program Leader/IMET | Coleen.Decker@noaa.gov |
| Josh Smith | Forecaster / IMET- Trainee | Joshua.Smith @noaa.gov |
| John Jannuzzi | Meteorologist-in-Charge | John.Jannuzzi@noaa.gov |
| Robert Diaz | Meteorologist-in-Charge | Robert.Diaz@noaa.gov |

FIRE WEATHER SERVICES

Description of the Boise Fire Weather District within the PNWCC



Zone 636 - Burns BLM south of Highway 20

Zone 637 - Vale BLM

BASIC METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

Schedule of Products

| <u>Product:</u> | <u>Issuance time: (MDT)</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Morning planning forecast | 0730 |
| Internet briefing | 0930 |
| Afternoon planning forecast | 1530 |
| NFDRS point forecast - Vale BLM | 1545 |
| NFDRS point forecast - Burns BLM | 1630 |
| Fire Weather Watch / Red Flag Warnings | Event-Driven |
| Spot forecasts | Upon request |

RED FLAG EVENTS: High to extreme fire danger and dry fuels (dryness level **brown** as defined by the Geographic Coordination Center 7 day Fire Potential Outlook and user input) in combination with the following weather conditions:

- Abundant lightning in conjunction with sufficiently dry fuels. Aerial coverage must be at least scattered (>25%) in nature.
- Strong winds and low humidity: See matrix below for sustained criteria. In addition to sustained strong winds from the matrix, wind gusts of at least 35 mph combined with relative humidity 10% or less is considered Red Flag Criteria. Red Flag Criteria are considered to be met if conditions are observed at any 3 RAWS stations within a combined area of Fire Weather Zone 636 and 637 for at least 3 hours (not necessarily consecutive). Alternatively, if a RFW is issued separately for Fire Weather Zones 636 and 637, it is considered to verify if conditions are met at 3 RAWS stations in Zone 636 or 2 RAWS stations in Zone 637.

SUSTAINED 20 FT WIND (10-MINUTE AVERAGE in MPH)

| | 10 mph | 15 mph | 20 mph | 25 mph | 30 mph |
|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 25% | | | | | |
| 20% | | | | | W |
| 15% | | | | W | W |
| 10% | | | W | W | W |

Interagency Coordination: Before the issuance of a Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning, there will be coordination with the affected agencies and neighboring NWS fire weather offices in order to assess fuel conditions and general fire danger.

Dissemination of Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings: Each issuance, update or cancellation of a Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning will be relayed by telephone to the dispatch office(s) affected by the watch/warning.

Verification of Red Flag Warnings and Events: NWS Boise will archive all Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings. Red Flag events will be manually databased and compared to the issued watches and warnings. Statistically derived values of Probability of Detection (POD), False Alarm Rate (FAR), and Critical Success Index (CSI) will be calculated as soon as possible. These scores will be available to the Boise MIC, NWS Western Region Headquarters, and local customers including the PNWCC meteorologists during post-season meetings from November through January.

SPOT FORECASTS: <http://spot.nws.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/spot/spotmon?site=boi>

Please reference LAT/LON when requesting spot forecasts.

Follow-up phone calls are always encouraged and feedback is extremely useful.

WEATHER BRIEFING: During this fire season, a daily briefing will be offered each day at 0930 MDT for all agencies via a Go To Meeting. During pre-fire season and low fire activity periods if there is not sufficient interest in a daily briefing, it will be held on Mondays and Thursdays at 0930 MDT. This briefing will include a general discussion of weather conditions and forecasts for the current day, as well a brief discussion of the extended period. Model data, satellite loops, and other items of interest will be addressed for the forecast period. The briefing will usually be about 10 minutes but may be longer during active fire periods.

NFDRS Sites

| 636 | STN # | NAME | COUNTY | LAT | LON | ELEV | ASPECT |
|------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|
| | 353522 | Bald Mtn | Harney | 43.33 | -118.24 | 5480 | S-Mtn Top |
| | 353520 | Basque Hills | Harney | 42.15 | -118.59 | 5080 | SW- Ridgeline |
| | 353527 | Little McCoy Creek | Harney | 42.75 | -118.56 | 5080 | S- Midslope |
| | 353526 | Moon Hill | Harney | 42.51 | -118.4 | 6100 | SW- Midslope |
| | 353521 | P Hill | Harney | 42.82 | -118.93 | 4860 | S-Flat Hilltop |
| | 353511 | Riddle Mtn | Harney | 43.1 | -118.5 | 6352 | S-Mtn Top |
| | 353512 | Wagontire | Harney | 43.34 | -119.88 | 6420 | SW- Midslope |
| | 353525 | Foster Flat | Harney | 42.97 | -119.25 | 5000 | Flat Lake Bed |
| | 353517 | Sage Hen | Harney | 43.52 | -119.29 | 4400 | Flat Basin |
| 637 | VALE BLM | | | | | | |
| | 353612 | Grassy Mtn | Malheur | 42.63 | -117.42 | 4000 | NW- Midslope |
| | 353613 | Kelsay Butte | Malheur | 43.9 | -117.99 | 5187 | SE- Saddle |
| | 353614 | Owyhee Ridge | Malheur | 43.58 | -117.23 | 4400 | E- Knoll |
| | 353616 | Red Butte | Malheur | 43.54 | -117.84 | 4460 | SE- Knoll |
| | 353618 | Alkali Flat | Malheur | 44.09 | -117.23 | 2495 | Flat Basin |